

administration is strongly opposed to both of these titles.

On October 8, 2001, following the tragic events of September 11, President Bush formed the Office of Homeland Security in the Executive Office of the White House to oversee immediate homeland security concerns and to propose long-term solutions. Governor Ridge and others have worked hard under the President's guidance to produce a comprehensive plan that now deserves our serious consideration and support.

To now mandate the establishment of a national Office for Combating Terrorism within the Executive Office of the President would be redundant to the structure currently in place, particularly since the President has already stated his intention to retain the position of Assistant to the President for Homeland Security.

Additionally, I have serious concerns about the budget review and certification authority provided by this legislation to the proposed Director of the National Office for Combating Terrorism. In my view, such authorities would undercut the ability of several Cabinet-level officials, including the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General and the Director of Central Intelligence, as well as the new Secretary of Homeland Security, to carry out their primary responsibilities.

In the case of the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense has wide-ranging responsibilities to protect vital U.S. interests and to prevent threats from reaching our shores. The Department, under the leadership of Secretary Rumsfeld, is currently engaged in an all-out global war against terrorism—designed to bring to justice those responsible for the September 11 attacks on our Nation and to deter would-be terrorists and those who harbor them from further attacks.

The Secretary of Defense must ensure that the Department is adequately and properly funded to carry out its many missions. It would be unwise to subject portions of the budget carefully prepared by the Secretary of Defense to a “decertification”—in essence, a veto—by an official who does not have to balance the many competing needs of the Department of Defense and the men and women of the Armed Forces.

Title III of the pending legislation requires the development of a national strategy for combating terrorism and the homeland security response. When the President established the Office of Homeland Security, he directed Governor Ridge to develop a comprehensive strategy to protect the United States from terrorist attacks.

In July of this year, President Bush unveiled his Homeland Security Strategy, precluding the need for Title III of the pending legislation. Legislating anything other than a periodic review and update of this strategy in conjunction with normal updates of our overall national security strategy would be

burdensome and would divert attention and resources away from the administration's focus on homeland defense and the global war on terrorism.

As the President stated in releasing the homeland security strategy on July 16, “The U.S. Government has no more important mission than protecting the homeland from future terrorist attacks.” We in the Congress should do all we can to help our President achieve this goal.

I urge my colleagues to support the Thompson amendment.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MR. PAUL SCHNEIDER

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I would like to recognize the professional dedication, vision, and public service of Mr. Paul Schneider, who is leaving his position as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. It is an honor for me to recognize the many outstanding achievements he has provided to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, the Navy, and our great Nation.

Mr. Schneider has spent almost four decades ensuring our Nation and its naval forces are equipped with the technological supremacy to ensure victory over America's enemies. As our Nation enters the 21st century and faces new and unsettling changes, the leadership and technological achievements Mr. Schneider has nurtured will continue to ensure our strength and freedom.

Mr. Schneider began his public service career over 37 years ago at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard as a project engineer to the Submarine Propulsion and Auxiliary Machinery Branch and Waterfront Design Liaison Office. Throughout the 1970s Mr. Schneider was a key member of the Navy's Trident submarine program, where he provided leadership, expertise, and vision in design, engineering, program management, and advanced technology development.

The Navy, recognizing Mr. Schneider's leadership and engineering expertise, brought him to the Naval Sea Systems Command in 1981 to be a Deputy Director in the Engineering Directorate where he was responsible for design and engineering of ship and submarine mechanical and electrical support systems and auxiliary machinery. In his next assignment, Mr. Schneider became executive director of the Amphibious, Auxiliary, Mine and Sealift Ships Directorate.

Throughout the 1990s, Mr. Schneider continued to be one of the Navy's leading engineers, becoming Executive Director of the Surface Ship Directorate. In October 1994, he became Executive Director and Senior Civilian of the Naval Sea Systems Command where he led efforts to revamp the Navy business process by adopting commercial cost processes and practices in the acquisition of major systems. He also implemented training and education programs to retool the Navy's acquisition workforce for the 21st century. In 1998, Mr. Schneider became Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition.

Mr. Schneider has earned numerous awards, including the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the Department of the Navy Distinguished and Superior Civilian Service Awards, and Presidential Distinguished and Meritorious Executive Rank Awards.

I could go on and on about the many significant contributions made by Paul Schneider throughout his long and distinguished career. There are almost too many to recount. Despite his many professional, technical, and engineering achievements, perhaps his most noteworthy trait is his genuine concern for those around him. He regards as his family the entire community of military personnel, civilian employees, contractors, and industry who faithfully serve the Navy throughout the world. His memberships in the American Society of Naval Engineers, Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, Association of Scientists and Engineers, Navy League and the Naval Institute attest to his dedication to be a friend, counselor, and mentor to many hundreds of junior personnel who have had the pleasure to serve under him during his tenure.

I ask my colleagues to join me today as I wish Mr. Paul Schneider all the best in his future as he continues his successful career as Senior Acquisition Executive for the National Security Agency. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I wish Paul and his loving wife Leslie fair winds and following seas.

REMEMBERING ALAN BEAVEN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to honor the heroism of Alan Beaven—a Californian aboard Flight 93 who helped prevent the terrorists from crashing another airplane into its intended target on September 11, 2001.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of that horrible day, our thoughts turn to the heroes like Alan who gave their lives to save others.

To honor the courageous passengers of Flight 93, I joined Senator SPECTER to co-sponsor the “Flight 93 National Memorial Act,” which I believe the Senate will pass today to establish a